

March 2005

The latest news from Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (formerly the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use)

> Vol. 3 No. 3



Mayor to Release Strategy to Revitalize Neighborhood Business Districts in March

To support the revitalization of Seattle's neighborhood business districts through zoning changes, pedestrian enhancements and development flexibility, the Mayor will release his Neighborhood Business District Strategy (NBDS) and associated Land Use Code amendments in March.

After more than a year in development and refinement, and after considerable public comment, NBDS is Seattle's first comprehensive review and amendments of neighborhood commercial development regulations since they were adopted in 1986. It is intended to advance Seattle's urban village strategy and the goals of many neighborhood plans. NBDS seeks to improve the City's regulations for neighborhood business districts in order to:

- support job creation and business vitality
- protect and enhance neighborhood character
- improve the pedestrian environment
- provide for housing growth in neighborhood business districts
- achieve quality design through development flexibility
- support transit connections

see neighborhood business districts on page 4

SPECIAL INVITATION Renowned Sustainable

Concerned about global climate change, national security, or the economy? Come hear **Svend Auken**, member of the Danish Parliament, at a March 18 Urban Sustainability Forum event at UW Meany Hall.

— details on pg. 8

ECA Ordinance Update Available for Comment

Here's your opportunity to tell us how development on and adjacent to environmentally critical areas (ECAs) should be regulated in Seattle. The proposed ECA ordinance is now available for public review and comment through March 17, 2005.

This is the first major update to these regulations since they were first adopted in 1992. Drafts are available online at www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/ECA or at DPD's Public Resource Center, 20th Floor Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave. For further information contact:

> Miles Mayhew, DPD Senior Planner (206) 615-1256 miles.mayhew@seattle.gov

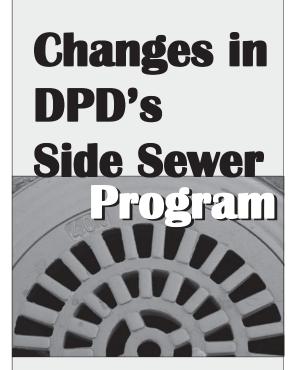
Monthly Highlights

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Visit us online anytime. Www.seattle.gov/dbd



DPD Now Collecting ROW Use Permit Fee

As of Feb. 28, 2005 DPD is now collecting the Seattle Dept. of Transportation (SDOT) right-of-way (ROW) use fee, \$165, in conjunction with side sewer permitting. This means the ROW permit should no longer be obtained separately at the SDOT Street Use Counter.

SDOT began requiring a street use permit for ROW use in conjunction with permitted side sewer work on Jan. 1, 2005. ROW use includes material laydown and storage; stockpiling; curb and sidewalk crossing of equipment; equipment parking during the side sewer installation; and/or excavation in the ROW to make a side sewer repair and/or connection.

Permit fees are paid at the DPD Cashier, located on the 20th floor of Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 Fifth Ave. For additional information, visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/sidesewer or call the DPD Site Development Team at (206) 223-7912.

Drainage and Side Sewer Fees Increase

For the first time since 1996, side sewer and drainage permit fees in Seattle are going up.

These fees are being increased both to adjust for inflation and to fully cover costs. Effective Feb. 28, 2005, this change affects permit applications for a side sewer or service drain connection, repair, alteration or addition.

Previously, side sewer and drainage permit fees never covered more than 40 percent of the City's program administration costs. The City's costs for this permitting program total approximately \$1.5 million per year, while revenues in 2004 (and prior years) have averaged about \$650,000 per year.

In the 2005 budget process, the City made the decision to increase side sewer and drainage permit fees to cover all costs, which necessitated large increases in these fees. Fee information, resources and key contacts are available on DPD's Side Sewer website at www.seattle.gov/dpd/sidesewer.

Frequently Asked Questions

What City of Seattle functions (costs) are covered by the new side sewer and drainage permit fees?

Four main City functions are involved in the permitting

- application intake and review process
- site inspection
- program administration (public/customer information, staff supervision, etc.)
- side sewer and drainage record keeping, which is now performed digitally using the City's Geographic Information

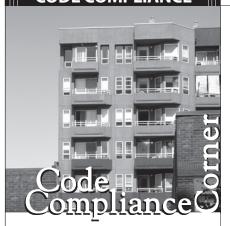
All of the new side sewer and drainage permit fees include a component for these four functions—except the side sewer repair permit fee, which is discounted to reflect the lower level of inspections and recording effort the City incurs for these types of permits. All the new fees include applicable City and State taxes.

The new fee for side sewer and drainage installations, connections, alterations, and relocations is \$375? What is included in the fee?

This fee covers the City's cost of receiving and reviewing a customer's application, up to one hour of inspection time. It also includes two hours for recording and digitizing any changes made by the customer to a side sewer and/or drain line associated with an application. Each hour of City time is priced at

see side sewer fees on page 3

CODE COMPLIANCE



We're pleased to offer periodic tips on complying with Seattle's many codes, courtesy of DPD's Code Compliance staff, whose daily work fosters safety and quality of life.

Code Compliance staff enforce regulations that govern construction, land use, environmental protection, housing and building maintenance, just cause eviction, tenant relocation due to development activity, vacant buildings standards, vegetation overgrowth, and noise from construction and equipment.

For more information or to report a potential code violation, call (206) 684-7899 or visit the Code Compliance website at www.seattle.gov/dpd/csc.

Spring Cleaning in Seattle

—Think your yard is yours to clutter? Think again...

With our unseasonably warmer weather you may be thinking of getting your spring cleaning out of the way early. Consider this your seasonal reminder to dispose of the results of your basement or garage clean-up appropriately, as certain items left stored outdoors may be considered junk storage.



Junk storage is not just whatever your neighbor doesn't

want to look at, but rather is a term defined in the Seattle Land Use Code as "the temporary or permanent storage outdoors of junk, waste, discarded, salvaged or used materials or inoperable vehicles or vehicle parts. This definition shall include but not be limited to the storage of used lumber, scrap metal, tires, household garbage, furniture and inoperable machinery."

Besides irritating your neighbor, leaving old tires or discarded couches in your front yard can get expensive. Junk storage is not allowed in any residential zone (including in connection with a home occupation) and may be cause for issuance of a citation with a fine of \$150 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

Junk is not only unhealthy and unsightly; it causes reduction in property value and can lead to an increase in graffiti, crime, rodents and other pests. So dispose of your unwanted items via recycling, give them to organizations in need, or take them to the transfer station—instead of your yard. Happy spring cleaning.

side sewer fees, cont. from page 2

\$85/hour, which includes program administration ("overhead").

City and State B&O taxes are also added to this fee. Side sewer repair permits, which require a lower level of inspection and recording effort on the part of the City, are set at \$280. If a permit requires more than one of hour of inspection time, extra hours are billed at \$155 per hour.

Is the City doing anything to reduce the costs of obtaining side sewer and drainage permit connection fees?

The City continues to work on improving online resources to save customers time and money during

the permitting process and to ensure accuracy of information. For example, side sewer cards (drawings of the locations of side sewers and drain connections) for every property in the city were made available online in 2003 via the City's GIS. Now, a contractor, citizen or other party who needs a side sewer and/or drainage permit can obtain information about the location, age, and history of alterations of their side sewer and/or drain line from their computer at their home or office. Prior to 2003, the customer had to make a two (or more) hour trip to downtown City offices to get a hard copy of this information.

CITY PLANNING



City Planning, a part of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development, is responsible for the following planning- and design-related activities:

- Area Planning
- CityDesign—the City's urban design function
- Comprehensive Planning
- Growth Management
- Land Use Policy
- Seattle Design Commission
- Seattle Planning Commission

"Working together to articulate, advocate and advance our community's vision for an exceptional and vibrant Seattle."

neighborhood business districts, cont. from page 1

- balance parking needs
- make the Land Use Code easier to use

In March proposed amendments for a new Commercial Land Use Code (SMC 23.47) will be made available. These code amendments are intended to implement the Mayor's strategy.

The recommended code changes have been widely reviewed by the public through a series of meetings held in 2004 and were the subject of a stakeholder advisory committee, representative of the many interests and objectives in Seattle neighborhood business areas. Among the key recommendations of NBDS are:

- zoning overlays to emphasize pedestrian-oriented commercial cores in business areas
- the elimination of unnecessary obstacles to housing development in commercial areas
- strengthening the pedestrian-orientation of commercial street fronts through both development standards and design guidelines
- refining and simplifying use and maximum size of business standards
- revised requirements for residential amenities
- control of building bulk by floor area ratios to encourage wider sidewalks, plazas, ground-level open spaces, or view corridors
- lowered parking requirements based on measured demand for parking to support transportation alternatives
- in Urban Centers and high capacity transit station areas, allowing the market rather than the code to determine appropriate parking supply
- combining the City's two Pedestrian designations into one, and mapping new Pedestrian designations in six neighborhoods
- simplifying the City's regulations so that they are easier to use and understand

In March, the following documents will be available:

- an Executive Summary describing the Mayor's Neighborhood Business District Strategy and a summary of the recommendations for rezones and Land Use Code amendments
- a proposed ordinance containing a new Commercial Land Use Code; related amendments to other sections of the Land Use Code; and rezones to implement the code changes
- a Director's Report describing the proposed code changes and rezones

The NBDS documents will be available online at www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/NBDS and will also be available for review at City of Seattle neighborhood service centers and the Seattle Public Library. Copies of all documentation will be available at the DPD Public Resource Center, located on the 20th floor of Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifthth Ave.

For questions about the NBDS and proposed Land Use Code amendments, or to join the mailing list for notification of future public hearings, please contact:

Jory Phillips, DPD Planner (206) 386-9761, nbds@seattle.gov

dpdINFO

Celebrating 10 Years of



Anniversary Exhibit Graces City Hall in March

Since its inception, the City of Seattle's Design Review Program, staffed by DPD, has led not only to better design for over 800 new buildings, but also to a better process for reaching decisions about design in Seattle.

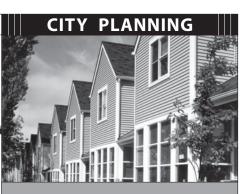
In October 2004, nearly 200 hundred people—architects, developers, elected officials, community residents, Design Review board members and City planners—gathered at City Hall for a "Celebrating Ten Years of Design Review" anniversary event. Now, an exhibit evolved from that event, highlighting the Design Review Program successes, will stand in City Hall for the month of March.

For additional information on the Design Review Program and the 10th Anniversary exhibit, please contact:

Vince Lyons, Design Review Program Manager (206) 233-3823, vince.lyons@seattle.gov

Tom Iurino, DPD Planner (206) 615-1457, tom.iurino@seattle.gov

Top photo - Project: New Holly Rowhouse, Architect: Weinstein AU; Bottom photo - Project: The Boulders at Greenlake, Architect: Johnston Architects



DETAILS

What: Design Review Program

10th Anniversary Exhibit

When: Now through March 31

Where: Seattle City Hall 600 Fourth Ave.

Up next: City Planning Exhibit –
"Transforming the City"
April 2-22, 2005



Public Input Welcome at Northgate Stakeholders Community Forum



Thornton Creek Channel

The Northgate Stake-holders Group and the Department of Planning and Development are seeking public input on the Lorig South Lot proposal (Northgate Commons) and the Thornton Creek Channel. The stakeholders, a citizen

advisory group to the Mayor and City Council, will hold its next community forum Tuesday, March 8, 7-9 p.m., at North Seattle Community College's College Center Building Cafeteria.

At this meeting, the Stakeholders will also report on the:

- status of the Northgate Coordinated Transportation Investment Plan;
- accomplishments since the Nov. 9 Community Forum;
- Northgate library, park and community center construction;

- the Northgate Mall redevelopment plan;
- Open Space and Pedestrian Plan;
- 5th Avenue Northeast Streetscape improvements; and
- Northgate's Art Plan and the Neighborhood Arts Council.

The stakeholder group is scheduled to finalize its advice to the City on the Lorig South Lot proposal in March, following the community forum.

The Northgate Stakeholders Group will continue its work through 2005 and plans to advise the City on several issues and proposals important to the success of the area. Regular working sessions of the group are open to the public. The next session will be held Tuesday, March 15, 4-7 p.m., at North Seattle Community College, Room ED2843A (in the Dr. Peter Ku Education Building).

For more information on the forum, stakeholder working sessions, or projects planned for Northgate, visit the "Northgate Revitalization" website at www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/northgate or contact:

Mark Troxel, DPD Planner (206) 615-1739, mark.troxel@seattle.gov

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"Championing civic design excellence in Seattle's public realm"

Project Reviews

Highlights from regular Design Commission meetings held this winter include:

- Olympic Sculpture Park final approval of skybridge permits and street design details. The commission concluded its review of this intriguing new park space in downtown Seattle, recommending that public entry points be generously scaled and that the pedestrian experience in the park, on the outer edges and along Elliott Avenue, which runs through the park, be considered in the final details.
- Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement briefing by the joint city/state team on the Preferred Alternative of a full-tunnel scheme,

which was unveiled in early December. The overview of key design issues with the south. central and northern segments of the project helped to set the stage for

- quarterly project reviews by the Design Commission in 2005. The commission remains strident in its support for a tunnel alternative that will allow for improved connections between Seattle's downtown and its waterfront.
- Freeway Park approval of pre-design and programming efforts to guide the Seattle Parks Department in making future capital improvements that will enhance public safety, circulation, visibility and public access to this often overlooked signature park in downtown Seattle.
- Pinestreet Natural Drainage "Green Grid" **Project** – approved design development of this ecological approach to street and drainage improvements in a residential area of northeast

- Seattle, recognizing the interdepartmental collaboration between the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), and strong reliance on active community participation.
- South Lake Union approved concept design for the South Lake Union and Waterfront Streetcar Project, commending the innovative approach to prototypical platform and shelter designs that cater to pedestrian needs, and supporting Council's request that local communities be consulted in looking at extensions north of downtown to the University of Washington and south through the International District. The commission also approved pre-design work on the preferred 2-way Mercer Corridor Improvement scheme, envisioned as an active vehicular corridor that also retains an emphasis on pedestrians and incorporates bike lanes, but cautioned that Mercer Street not be improved at the expense of Denny Way.



The preferred alternative for replacing the Viaduct with a tunnel presents options to reconnect the city and its waterfront.

Recent Events/Activities

Outside of regular meetings, in mid-February the Design Commission joined with staff from

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DPD. SDOT and Parks to hold the first of three workshops on surface street design options for Alaskan Way. The workshops will inform both the Viaduct replacement project and the Central Waterfront Plan. Additional workshops are planned for March and April, each focusing on a different geographic segment of Alaskan Way.

Also in February, the commission joined Seattle Center staff on a walking tour of Seattle Center to orient the commission to the center's future development plans. The tour focused on the Seattle Center Garage on Lot 2, being developed in partnership with the Gates Foundation: the Center House, which has a new opportunity to become the centerpiece for the 74-acre complex: the sites identified for two new monorail stations and the rail alignment, which will run through the center; and the Mercer Street corridor, which is a key component of a new lowered Aurora scheme now envisioned in the Viaduct Replacement Project.

In March, commission representatives participated in the Northgate Technical Design Workshop, led by City staff from several departments to coordinate public improvements in the right of way in the Northgate Mall area. They also participated in a Mercer Corridor Workshop, led by SDOT staff.

Upcoming Design Commission Activities

The Design Commission will host a Capital Improvement Project department debriefing session in early March to hear feedback from representatives of all City departments who bring projects to the commission. Similar debriefings in the past have proved very constructive for both the commission and the City, giving new ideas on how to realize more effective design dialogue about the City's capital investments.

In early March, the commission will also brief City Council's Urban Development and Planning Committee, highlighting major and lesserknown projects seen by the commission in recent months and focusing on the commission's ongoing role in several major transportation projects. The commission advises City Council, along with the Mayor and all city departments, on the wisest allocation of resources in the pursuit of design excellence for capital projects and projects in the public right of way.

Projects tentatively scheduled for upcoming Design Commission agendas this spring include:

- Colman Ferry Dock Redevelopment early design
- Downtown Wayfinding Program Phase III
- Fremont Bridge and Maintenance Facility Improvements Design Development
- SDOT's proposed update to the Right of Way Improvement Manual Briefing
- Northgate area design development review of 5th Avenue Northeast Improvements-Phase I and early concept designs for the Thornton Creek Channel project which runs through the south lot of Northgate Mall, a site that will soon see a major new mixeduse development.

Design Commission staff have led the way in creating a new document that clarifies the way the City handles design review of major projects, whether public or private, and articulates in plain English the role that several boards and commissions play in that process. Seattle is unique in having an intricate network of review bodies that work in close coordination to ensure thorough review. This network includes the Design Commission and the Seattle Planning Commission, both of which are advisory to the City at large; seven neighborhood-based design review boards who advise DPD in carrying out regulatory review of private multifamily and commercial projects; a centralized Landmarks Board; and several additional boards charged with regulatory review of historic buildings and districts.

Design Commission meetings are open to the public and are held the first and third Thursday of each month in the Boards and Commissions Room in City Hall. This spring, the commission will unveil a more direct address and new look for its website. For more information on Design Commission activities visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/citydesign/ projectreview/sdc or contact:

> Layne Cubell, DPD **Design Commission Coordinator** (206) 233-7911, layne.cubel@seattle.gov



Seattle and Washington Can Lead the Sustainable Energy Economy

Concerned about global climate change, national security, or the economy? At our March 18 Urban Sustainability Forum event you'll learn how developing locally produced sustainable energy and using our existing resources more efficiently is part of the solution to these challenges. Plan now to attend:

"Take Charge with Sustainable Energy" Friday, March 18, 2005, 7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m) **UW Meany Hall**

Guest speaker Svend Auken—a member of Danish Parliament and formerly Danish Minister for Energy & Environment-will tell us about how Denmark moved from almost 100 percent dependence on foreign oil to being a country where renewable energy technology is now its top export.

Presented by Mayor Greg Nickels and International Sustainable Solutions, this event is the second in the 2005 Urban Sustainability Forum series, which is designed to be an energizing public dialogue on transforming Seattle into a 21st century city that is climateneutral, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented, community-focused and sustainably designed.

For details on the March 18 event and how to purchase tickets, see the flyer inserted in this issue. A list of all Urban Sustainability Forum speakers and dates is available on DPD's Sustainable Building website at www.seattle.gov/dpd/sustainability. If you have questions, please contact:

> Lynne Barker, DPD Sustainable Development Planner (206) 684-0806, lynne.barker@seattle.gov

Greening the 21st Century: Seattle Built Green Conference & Expo

loin regional building industry professionals for a full day of seminars and workshops, plus a trade show of green products, materials and services, aimed at builders, designers, remodelers and environmental engineers:

March 17, 2005, Seattle Center Conference Center

Keynote speaker Steve Loken, a Montana builder, is a nationally recognized expert in energy and home building technology. The trade show is open to the general public from 5:30-7 p.m. For more information, contact Robin Rogers, Master Builders Assn. of King and Snohomish Counties, (425) 451-7920, rrogers@mbaks.com, or visit www.builtgreen.net.

GREENWORLD®2005 Forum: "Naked - Sustainability Uncovered"

Please join us for the International Interior Design Association's (IIDA) 7th Annual GREENWORLD® community forum on sustainable design:

Thursday, April 7, 2005 **Bell Harbor Convention Center**

5 p.m. - Registration/Learning/ **Viewing**

Exhibits: An artistic presentation of innovative, sustainable products Interactive Education: Interactive experiences that will motivate stimulating discussion and provoke action.

7 p.m. - Keynote Speaker: Jean-Michel Cousteau

Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of Jacques Cousteau, is a trained architect as well as an explorer, environmentalist, educator, film producer and dedicated diplomat for the environment. He is winner of Emmy and Peabody Awards, the 7 d'Or and the Cable Ace Award. He is also President and Founder of the Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization that serves as a "Voice for the Ocean." A tireless spokesperson, Cousteau impresses an ethic of conservation, research and marine education, while realistically addressing the economic practicalities.

8:30 p.m. - Afterglow

A cocktail party designed to inspire a sustainable lifestyle.

For more information, contact:

Justine Kish, IIDA (425) 260-0418 justinekish@comcast.net www.iida-northerpacific.org **PULLED FROM CIRCULATION: CAM 304**, Building Permit Requirements for Prefabricated Steel Buildings, has been pulled from circulation for important process updates. If you have questions about this CAM, call Building Code Tech Support, (206) 684-4630, I-4:15 pm, M-F.

NEW: CAM 506, Side Sewer Permits for Temporary Dewatering on Construction Sites, clarifies the requirements for obtaining construction site dewatering authorization, submittal requirements for construction temporary dewatering and connections, requirements for construction dewatering monitoring and compliance, and the responsibilities of relevant parties.

CAM updates are available online at www.seattle.gov/dpd/publications. Printed copies are available from the Public Resource Center, 20th floor, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave, (206) 684-8467.

Director's Rules

FINAL

- **DR 8-2005**, Use Of Protected Aboveground Tanks For Fuel Storage Inside Buildings (superseding DR 8-98), became effective Feb. 15, 2005. This is a joint ruling with Seattle Fire Department Administrative Rule 34.01.04.
- DR 9-2005, Side Sewer Fee Schedule (superseding DR 2-2005), became effective Feb. 15, 2005.

DRAFT

■ DR 10-2005, Variances from the Standards of the Noise Control Code, SMC 25.08 (superseding DR 21-99) was available for comment through March 2, 2005. For more information, please contact Dori Leslie, (206) 615-1749, dori.leslie@seattle.gov.

IMPORTANT: Notice of Draft Director's Rules comment periods is provided in dpdlNFO as a courtesy to readers. Official legal notice regarding Director's Rules is published in the Daily Journal of Commerce. Land use rules are also published in DPD's **Land Use Information Bulletin** (formerly known as the General Mail Release or GMR). To view the bulletin online or to receive an email posting alert when the Land Use Information Bulletin is posted online, visit **www.seattle.gov/dpd/notices**. To receive a paper version in the mail, please contact Betty Galarosa, betty.galarosa@seattle.gov, (206) 684-8322.

RED FLAG!



Yes, we're desperate for your attention...

...but that's because this is your last chance to update your records with our new address (shown above). Beginning May 1, 2005, the U.S. Postal Service will no longer forward your mail to us at any DPD address other the one above. Please make the change today!

Save some trees. Read dpdINFO online.



It's easy. Visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/
publications/info and sign up to receive
a newsletter posting alert by email with
a direct link to the month's headlines.
If you'd like to be removed from our
printed mailing list, call (206) 233-3881
and provide the name and address
you'd like removed.

HOW TO REACH US AT DPD

Permits

General Applications (Applicant Svcs Ctr) 206-684-8850 Address Assignment 684-8850 Cashier 386-9780 Design Review Program 233-3823 Drainage & Sewer Review (incl side sewer) 684-5362 Land Use Reviewers (see note below*) n/a*
Master Use Permits
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Permits
Plumbing & Gas Piping Permits
Sign Permits
Inspections
Inspection Requests: General
Inspectors: General
Site/Erosion Control
Planning
CityDesign (urban design office) 615-1349
Comprehensive Planning
Land Use Policy
Seattle Design Commission
Seattle Planning Commission
Administration
Office of the Director
Community Relations
Accounting

Code Violation Complaint Hotline

Construction, Housing & Land Use Complaints ... 684-7899

Information

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General Department Information)
Applicant Services Center (ASC) 684-8850)
Hours: M,W,F: 7:30am-5:30pm; Tu,Th: 10:30am-5:30pm	
Code Compliance (enforcement info) 615-0808	
Events & Classes	
GIS Maps & Services	
Licensing & Testing (gas piping, steam eng, refrig) 684-5174	
Media Relations	
Microfilm Library 233-5180)
Hours: M,W,Th,F: 9am-4:30pm; Tu: 10am-4:30pm	
Property Owner/Tenant Assistance	
Public Resource Center (PRC) 684-8467	7
Hours: M,W,Th,F: 8am-5pm; Tu: 10am-5pm	
Publications 684-8467	
Site Development	
Sustainable Building	
Tech Support: Building Code (1-4:15pm) 684-4630	
Tech Support: Electrical Code (see ASC hours) 684-5383	
Tech Support: Energy/Mech Code (1-4:15pm) 684-7846	
Zoning Info (general, not site-specific*)	
Zoning Info (site-specific Single Family*; 1-4:15pm) 684-8850	J

^{*} Due to the complexity of Seattle's Land Use Code, all other types of information must be obtained in person at DPD's Applicant Services Center or online at www.seattle.gov/dpd/landuse.

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bqb/vog.slttle.gov/dpd

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Department of Planning and Development

City of Seattle



The latest news from Seattle's Department of Planning and Development

